July/August 1996

LOUISIANA Conservationist 1996-97 CALENDAR

This year's *Louisiana Conservationist* calendar is dedicated to the threatened and endangered species of Louisiana. Many species in our state and throughout the country are struggling to survive, while many have already lost the battle. Thirteen species have been highlighted throughout the calendar with a brief explanation of their status within Louisiana and the reason for their individual plights. Some species are only memories and no longer grace the vast, beautiful habitats of Louisiana. Such animals as the Whooping Crane (June) and Attwater's Greater Prairie Chicken (back cover) have not been sighted in Louisiana since 1919. However, we have searched the countryside for photographs of these rare animals for our readers' delight and information.

We hope you enjoy this year's calendar. It is a memorial to Louisiana's natural history and a reminder of the unique natural resources Louisiana had and still offers to its residents.

Louisiana Conservationist
Editorial Staff

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LOUISIANA Conservationist 1996-97 CALENDAR

Parish in 1977. Many unverified sightings since that time, but none confirmed. Reports of black panthers are unreliable because the animal has no black color phases.
Cover and above photo by Maresa Pryor.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DMAP application deadline. 1	*LABOR DAY* 2	*Alligator season opens this month.* 3	☾ 4	5	6	*Dove season opens. (Refer to the 1996-97 Louisiana Hunting Regulations pamphlet.)* 7
8	9	10	*Bow hunters should practice for opening day.* 11	● 12	*White shrimp begin migration to the Gulf as water temperatures cool.* 13	*ROSH HASHANAH* 14
15	*Go night fishing for crappie.* 16	17	*Peak spawning for redfish.* 18	*Gift subscriptions to Louisiana Conservationist are very affordable.* 19	☽ 20	*Teal season opens. (Refer to the 1996-97 Louisiana Hunting Regulations pamphlet.)* 21
FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN 22	*YOM KIPPUR* 23	*Peregrine Falcons return from northern breeding grounds.* 24	*Peak migration/staging of tree ducks in marshes and rice fields.* 25	○ 26	*Time to plant winter wheat and clover food plots.* 27	*Louisiana National Hunting & Fishing Day* 28
Teal season closes. (Refer to the 1996-97 Louisiana Hunting Regulations pamphlet.) 29	*Mussel season closes.* 30				AUGUST S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

September 1996

Report Outdoor Outlaws 1-800-442-2511

Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (Lepidochelys kempii). Status: Endangered. Number of nesting females declined from an estimated 42,000 on a single day in the 1940s to 621 during the entire year of 1982. The most endangered sea turtle because of intense exploitation of eggs and harvest of adults for food and incidental catch in fishing gear. Photo by C. Allan Morgan.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Archery and commercial hunting preserve seasons open. 1	2	*Gulf sturgeon migrate out of rivers to Gulf.* 3	☾ 4	*Rabbit and squirrel seasons open.* 5
6	*Bald Eagles return to Louisiana to nest.* 7	8	*Clean and repair bird feeders.* 9	10	*Begin flooding rice fields for waterfowl.* 11	● 12
Deer rut under way in Area 3. *White-fronted geese begin to arrive in southwest rice fields.* 13	COLUMBUS DAY 14	*Speckled trout and redfish move to upper estuaries.* 15	16	17	*Yellow Rails arrive this month in southwestern fields and marshes.* 18	*Gun still hunt opens in Area 3.* ☽ 19
20	*Commercial mullet season opens.* 21	*Oysters begin to store glycogen and fatten as water temperatures cool.* 22	*Peak time for spotted bass fishing in Florida Parish rivers.* 23	*Neotropical birds move through the state.* 24	25	*Gun still hunt opens in Area 2.* ○ 26
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 27	28	29	30	HALLOWEEN 31		

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30					

NOVEMBER

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 1996

Brown Pelican *(Pelecanus occidentalis).* Status: Endangered (under review by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). More than 50,000 birds were present in 1919. Extirpated by 1963 due to pesticide poisoning (endrin), as well as alterations in nesting habitats due to erosion of barrier islands. In 1995, production was best on record as an estimated 10,000 nests produced approximately 16,000 fledglings/nestlings. *Photo by Joe Mac Hudspeth.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	DECEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				*ALL SAINTS DAY* *Renewals sent to commercial license holders.* *Menhaden season closes.* 1	*Major migration period begins for most waterfowl species.* 2
Spotted salamanders begin egg-laying. ☾ 3	*Begin flooding green tree reservoirs and Catahoula Lake.* 4	*ELECTION DAY* 5	*Largemouth bass moving away from bank.* 6	*Fall waterfowl migration in full swing. Mallards and diving ducks arrive with cold fronts.* 7	*Seabobs begin appearing along coast.* 8	*Special youth and handicapped hunts on selected WMAs.* 9
Stock bluegill in new or renovated farm ponds. ● 10	*VETERAN'S DAY* *Deer rut under way in Area 2.* 11	12	13	*Large flounder increasingly available for gigging along barrier islands.* 14	*Begin issuing commercial licenses for 1997.* 15	*Gun, still hunt, opens in Areas 1 and 6.* 16
☽ 17	*Commercial spotted seatrout season opens.* 18	*Time to pick pecans.* 19	20	21	22	*Common Goldeneyes return to coastal Louisiana.* 23
○ 24	25	26	27	*THANKSGIVING* *Quail season opens.* *Woodcock season begins. (Refer to the 1996-97 Louisiana Hunting Regulations pamphlet.)* 28	*Managed deer hunts on WMAs.* 29	30

November 1996

Report Outdoor Outlaws 1-800-442-2511

sidered extinct in the wild except for experimental reintroduction programs. No pure red wolves left in state. Some red wolf-coyote crosses may occur at Sabine National Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish. *Photo by Lynn M. Stone*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 ☾	4	5	6 *HANUKKAH BEGINS*	7 *Garter snakes move to hibernation sites.*
8 *Canada Geese begin arriving in southwest.*	9 *Louisiana Conservationist subscriptions make great Christmas gifts.*	10 ● *Upland chorus frogs begin breeding.*	11	12 *Brown Pelicans begin nesting on Queen Bess island.*	13 *Sheepshead catches increase with low tidal conditions.*	14 *Brown pods of the rare wild coco orchid are evident in upland longleaf pine areas.*
15 *Perform annual maintenance of Wood Duck boxes.*	16 *Mole salamanders begin gathering at ponds to breed.*	17 ☽ *Louisiana pearlshell reproduces in cold-water creeks in central Louisiana.*	18 *Look for oyster mushrooms on bottomland hardwood trees.*	19 *Waterdogs move out of cool summer retreats.*	20 *Mistletoe evident in deciduous hardwood trees.*	21 *FIRST DAY OF WINTER*
22 *Deer rut under way in Areas 1 and 6.*	23 *Purchase 1997 commercial licenses early.*	24 ○ *CHRISTMAS EVE HANUKKAH ENDS*	25 *CHRISTMAS DAY*	26 *Obtain Reptile Collectors and Dealers licenses.*	27 *Christmas bird counts conducted nationwide.*	28
29	30 *Recycle Christmas trees for marsh management, wildlife cover piles or mulch.*	31 *NEW YEAR'S EVE 1996 commercial licenses expire.*				

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

December 1996

Report Outdoor Outlaws 1-800-442-2511

Louisiana Black Bear (*Ursus americanus luteolus*). Status: Threatened. Most direct cause of population decrease is conversion to agriculture of vast tracts of bottomland hardwood forest in the northeastern portion of the state. Recent restoration of bottomland hardwoods through local and federal programs and public education programs by the Black Bear Conservation Committee have led to verified male sightings in areas not inhabited before. *Photo by Maslowski Wildlife Productions.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DECEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28		*NEW YEAR'S DAY* ☾ 1	*Peak waterfowl numbers in coastal Louisiana* 2	*Bald Eagles begin nesting. Report sightings to LDWF.* 3	*Crappie appear in river channel at Toledo Bend.* 4
5	*Resident Great Horned Owls nesting.* 6	7	● 8	9	10	*Large schools of crappie congregate in deep water.* 11
12	*Striped bass migrate up Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers.* 13	*Red berries persist on dormant deciduous holly and yaupon.* 14	☽ 15	*Clean and repair Purple Martin nest boxes.* 16	*Early nesting Wood Ducks search for tree cavities.* 17	18
19	*MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., DAY* *Commercial mullet season closes.* 20	21	*Plant native trees and shrubs this month.* 22	○ 23	24	25
Squirrel season closes. 26	27	*Peak number of Canada Geese in southwest rice fields.* 28	29	30	*Woodcock season closes. Archery deer season closes.* ☾ 31	

January 1997

Report Outdoor Outlaws 1-800-442-2511

Red Cockaded Woodpecker *(Picoides borealis).* Status: Endangered. Fewer than 400 known active colonies remaining in the state, nearly all on Kisatchie National Forest and Fort Polk Wildlife Management Area. Reasons for decline include loss of habitat from subdivision development and pine forests managed with short rotations and fire suppression, resulting in hardwood midstory on otherwise appropriate habitat. *Photo by William Lea.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	MARCH S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31					1
Repair turtle traps. 2	*Opossums give birth this month.* 3	4	5	6	● 7	*Gulf sturgeon enter rivers to find suitable spawning habitat.* 8
9	10	*MARDI GRAS* *Clean and repair Eastern Bluebird nest boxes.* 11	*ASH WEDNESDAY* 12	13	*ST. VALENTINE'S DAY* ☽ 14	*Deadline for DMAP harvest records.* 15
Edible wild greens can be gathered in fallow fields. 16	*PRESIDENT'S DAY* *White bass begin spawning.* 17	*Over-wintering waterfowl begin migration northward.* 18	*Sac-a-lait schools breaking up.* 19	*Purple martins appear. Trophy bass fishing on False River.* 20	*Wild Turkeys begin to gobble on warm days.* 21	○ 22
Armadillos give birth this month. 23	*Big largemouth bass biting on crawfish at Toledo Bend.* 24	*Bright golden blossoms of yellow top blanket fields and roadsides.* 25	26	27	*Quail and rabbit seasons close.* 28	

February 1997

Report Outdoor Outlaws 1-800-442-2511

Occasional sightings along coastal areas in winter. Dramatically declined due to DDT and other organochlorine pesticides. Prior to DDT declines, shooting of birds and habitat loss in wetland areas caused species numbers to drop. *Photo by Michael H. Francis.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30					*Remaining strike net fisheries close in state waters.* 1
Large spawning-sized black drum enter estuaries. ☾ 2	*Largemouth bass begin nesting.* 3	4	*Wood Duck broods begin to appear.* 5	*Pink shrimp appearing in Chandeleur Sound.* 6	7	● 8
9	*Coastal migratory species such as Florida pompano and Spanish mackerel begin arriving.* 10	*Mottled Ducks begin nesting.* 11	*Turkey courtship and mating begins.* 12	*Clean and hang hummingbird feeders.* 13	14	☽ 15
Eastern Bluebirds begin building nests. 16	*ST. PATRICK'S DAY* 17	*Peak Wood Duck nesting.* 18	19	*FIRST DAY OF SPRING* 20	21	22
PALM SUNDAY (23) *EASTER (30)* ○ 23/30	*Largemouth bass begin to spawn.* *Frog season closes. (31)* ☾ 24/31	*Northern Parula Warblers return from wintering grounds in Caribbean and Central America.* 25	26	27	*GOOD FRIDAY* *Tubular red and yellow flowers of red buckeye visited by hummingbirds.* 28	29

March 1997

ing are beyond the 1,000 fathom line, although strandings have been documented from Cameron, Terrebonne and Plaquemines parishes as well as sightings off the mouth of the Mississippi River. *Photo by C. Allan Morgan*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MARCH S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	MAY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	*APRIL FOOL'S DAY* 1	*Louisiana state wild flower, the giant blue iris, blossoms in southern marshes.* 2	3	*Rare Swallow-tailed Kites return to the Pearl River Basin to nest.* 4	*Dewberries ripen this month.* 5
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS *Start weed control in farm ponds.* 6	*Striped bass artificial spawning begins at Toledo Bend Hatchery.* ● 7	*Peak ingress of brown shrimp post larvae into Calcasieu Lake.* 8	*Collect mayhaw for jams and jellies.* 9	*Osprey begin nesting in south Louisiana.* 10	*Rare lady slipper orchids, flower in mature hardwood forests in central and north Louisiana.* 11	*Mottled Duck broods appear.* 12
A life jacket is your friend for life. It won't work, if you don't wear it. 13	☽ 14	15	16	*Purple Gallinules arrive from South and Central America to begin nesting.* 17	*Alligator snapping turtles begin laying eggs.* 18	19
Male alligators bellow in marshes. 20	*Commercial menhaden season opens.* 21	*Peak numbers of neotropical migratory birds return to Louisiana from Central and South America.* ○ 22	23	*Most Wild Turkey hens on nest.* 24	25	*Peak crappie spawn at Toledo Bend.* 26
27	*Last day for commercial spotted seatrout fishing using rod and reel only.* 28	☾ 29	*Renewals sent to recreational gear license holders. Commercial hunting preserve season closes.* 30			

April 1997

Report Outdoor Outlaws 1-800-442-2511

version of natural longleaf pine forests to loblolly plantations, agriculture and urban growth and absence of fire, which leads to thick understory and midstory blocking sunlight and preventing the growth of grasses for food. *Photo by Michael H. Francis.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
APRIL S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JUNE S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30			*Issuing of 1997-98 recreational gear licenses begins.* 1	*Brown Pelican nesting in full swing.* *Wild Turkey hatch under way.* 2	3
Time to pick red mulberries. 4	*Bluegill begin to bed up in southern parishes.* 5	● 6	*The graceful orchid, spreading pogonia, blooms until July in savannahs of southeast Louisiana.* 7	8	*Burn longleaf stands to manage for pine snakes.* 9	*Beginning of summer-long spawning of spotted seatrout.* 10
MOTHER'S DAY 11	12	13	*Common water snakes become nocturnal for rest of summer.* 14	*Dewberries ready for picking.* 15	*Loggerhead sea turtle nesting on Chandeleur Islands.* 16	17
Alligators breed. 18	19	*Historical time of natural lightning fires in piney woods.* 20	21	*Plant browntop millet fields for doves.* 22	23	24
Young Red-cockaded Woodpeckers leave cavity nests. 25	*MEMORIAL DAY* 26	*Peak bullfrog breeding activity.* 27	*Wild blueberries ripening in piney woods.* 28	☾ 29	30	31

May 1997

Report Outdoor Outlaws 1-800-442-2511

of breeding and wintering habitat through wetland drainage, agriculture and human encroachment. In addition, low reproductive rates of one chick per year and non-migratory state population contributed to extirpation. Species reduced 50 percent during a hurricane in 1940 and never recovered. *Photo by Lynn M Stone.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Frog season opens 1	2	*Mottled duck banding begins.* 3	*Statewide breeding bird surveys conducted this month.* 4	● 5	*Excellent night fishing on full moons during summer months.* 6	7
Peak fawning season for Area 2. 8	9	10	*Blackberries ripen this month.* 11	*Male cottonmouths battle for females.* 12	*Raccoons digging up red-eared turtle eggs.* ☽ 13	*FLAG DAY* 14
FATHER'S DAY *Eastern coral snakes lay eggs.* 15	*1997-98 hunting and fishing licenses go on sale.* 16	*Hybrid striped bass schooling.* 17	*Chanterelle mushrooms fruiting in bottomland oak forests.* 18	19	*Bluebirds building nests again for second brood.* ○ 20	*FIRST DAY OF SUMMER* 21
Diamondback terrapin season opens. 22	*Purchase your Wild Louisiana Stamp by end of month.* 23	*Alligators begin nesting.* 24	*Rare red penstemon in flower in upland deep sands of central and northwestern Louisiana.* 25	26	☾ 27	*Most Wild Turkey poults are flying and roosting in trees.* 28
29	*1996-97 hunting, fishing and recreational gear licenses expire.* 30				MAY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JULY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

June 1997

ly DDT) resulting in thinning of egg shells. Loss of habitat and human disturbances to nesting pairs during nesting season also contributed to decline.
Photo by Lynn M. Stone.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Purchase 1997-98 sport and recreational gear licenses. Commercial king mackerel fishery reopens. 1	*Catahoula Lake drawdown begins. Pre-season wood duck banding begins.* 2	*Blue crabs congregate along barrier island beaches.* 3	*INDEPENDENCE DAY* ● 4	5
6	*Alligators cease laying eggs.* 7	*Crabs in berry stage found along beaches.* 8	9	10	*End of most Wood Duck and Wild Turkey nesting.* 11	☽ 12
13	14	15	16	17	18	○ 19
20	*Soft-shelled turtles finish laying eggs.* 21	22	23	*Shorebirds begin southern migration through the state.* 24	25	☾ 26
27	*Rose gentian in bloom in prairies and pinelands.* 28	29	30	31	JUNE S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	AUGUST S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

July 1997

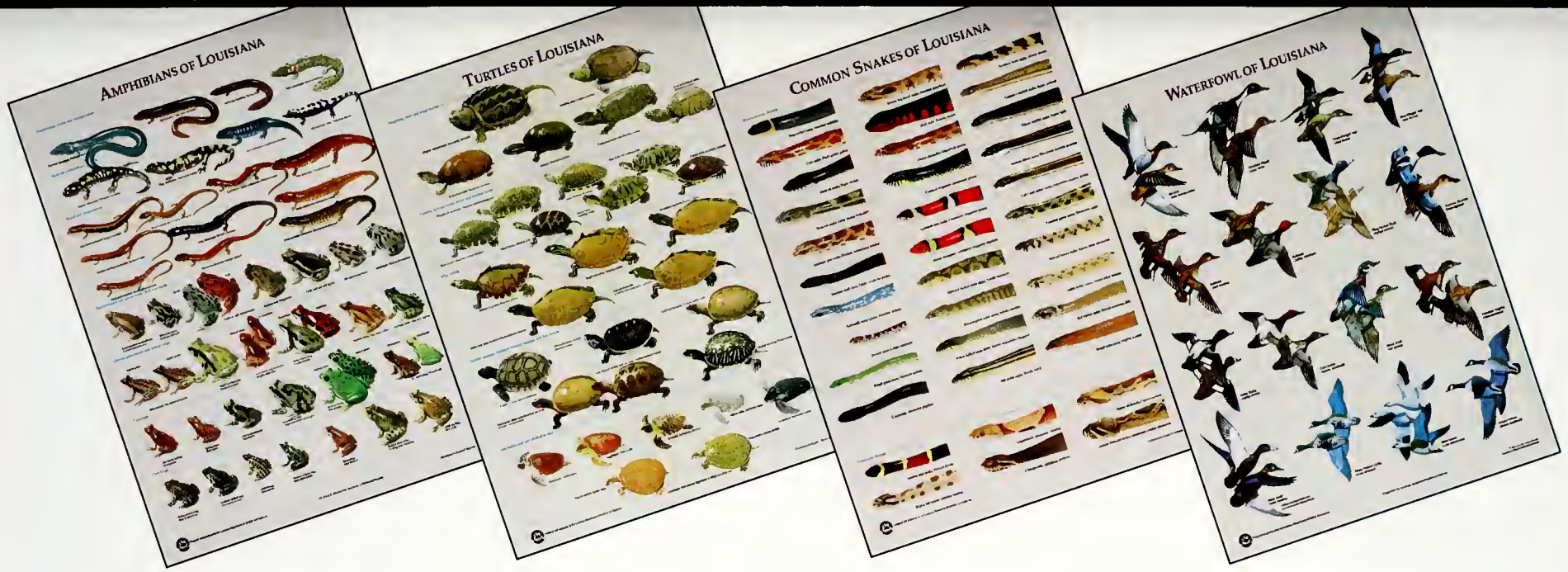
nelization. *Photo by Maslowski Wildlife Productions.* ***Attwater's Greater Prairie Chicken*** (*Tympanuchus cupido*) (back cover). Status: Extirpated. Hunting and alteration of land to agriculture led to extirpation of the bird. The last definite record came from a secluded prairie 14 miles south of Vinton in Calcasieu Parish in 1919. *Photo by C. Allan Morgan.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JULY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	SEPTEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30				*Buy hunting licenses to avoid the rush.* 1	*Continue fall wildlife planting work* 2
● 3	4	5	*Scout hunting areas and check mast-producing trees.* 6	*Large numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds pass through Louisiana to Central America.* 7	8	9
Get lanterns and gigs ready for flounders. 10	*Pig frogs calling from marshes.* ☽ 11	*First Blue-winged Teal and Pintail begin appearing.* 12	13	*Begin mowing strips through dove fields.* 14	*Peaking fawning season in areas 1 and 6.* 15	16
Blue-winged Teal congregating on Catahoula Lake. 17	○ 18	*Bull redfish begin congregating near tidal passes.* 19	*Best largemouth bass fishing at night at Toledo Bend.* 20	*Family groups of Swallow-tailed Kites soaring over Pearl, Atchafalaya and Sabine river basins.* 21	*Pygmy rattlesnakes give birth.* 22	*Begin preparation for alligator season.* 23
☾ 24/31	*Delicious muscadine grapes ripen throughout the state.* 25	26	*Timber rattlesnakes give birth.* 27	*Keep all guns and ammunition stored out of children's reach.* 28	29	30

August 1997

Louisiana's Official Wildlife & Fisheries Posters

The official wildlife and fisheries posters have become the hottest selling item ever offered through the *Louisiana Conservationist*. These popular posters have been a favorite of Louisianians since 1989 when they first appeared in the July/August issue. Each poster measures 17" x 22" and shows full color, accurate depictions of Louisiana's wildlife and fisheries. They make great gifts for the outdoors person and provide an excellent learning tool for the classroom. Buy one or all seven. The more you buy, the lower the price.



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☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa Card Number ☐☐☐☐–☐☐☐☐–☐☐☐☐–☐☐☐☐

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Total amount paid $ _____